STRANGE

And fearfull newes from

PLAISTO.

In the pariſh of

WEST-HAM,

Neere Bow, foure miles fron London, in the houſe of one *Paul Fox* a Silke-Weaver, where is dayly to be ſeene throwing of Stones, Bricbats, Oyſter-ſhels, Bread, cutting his worke in peeces, breaking his windowes, ſtones of fifty wayt comming up the ſtayers, a ſword flying about the roome, Books going up and downe the houſe.

WITH

Many more unheard of things, fearfull to the amazement of many hundreds of the beholders, both learned men and others; neither can any perceive from whence theſe ſtrange things come.

WITH

Many more wonders here ſet downe the like never heard of before.

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Severall great wonders seene at *Paul Fox* his house at *Playsto*, in the parish of *west-ham* in the County of *Essex*, many thousands *of people going daily thither to behold them to the amazement of all the beholders.*

AT *Plaisto* in the Parish of West-ham, in the County of *Essex*, liveth one *Paul Fox* a silke Weaver, a man of an honest life and conversation, and hath a wife and children, and dwelt there many years. This mans house for the space of one month last past or more, hath beene haunted with a Spirit (which in the view of many thousands of people, that have come thither on purpoe to behold those wonders that are daily there to be seene) hath done these things following.

There hung a sword in the Chamber with the hilts downwards, and the point in the sealing of the house, which in a sudden came flourishing about the roome flying up and downe, no hand touching of it nor any thing but the Sword possibly appearing: the said *Paul Fox* being then in the roome, and some others, but the Sword came not neere any of them: and although at the first it was some terrour to the Beholders, the said *Fox* tooke hold of it by the Hilts, and at the first had much adoe to keepe it in his hand, the point still turning in his hand severall wayes, but hee forthwith ran with it into the next roome, laying it downe upon a Bench where it lay still:

After this hee came out of that roome into the Chamber, where it was at the firſt, and lockt the other Chamber doore, the Sword being in it, and while hee was talking with ſome others of the ſtrangers of this buſines, the Sword came againe into the roome, and flouriſhed about the ſame as before, the doore not opening nor any ſigne appearing how it came out of that roome into this.

Then there being a Cane ſtanding in the Kitchin (ſuch a one as men uſually walke withall in the ſtreets) the Cane of it ſelfe came hopping up the ſtaires, giving a lap on every ſtayre as it came, and preſented it ſelfe in the Roome, ſtand upright upon one end) and after it had as it were given ſome obeyſance to the Sword, the Sword lay ſtill, and the Cane began to dance round about the Table on which the Sword lay for the ſpace of halfe a quarter of an houre, and then laid it ſelfe downe by it.

This being ended, and the fury of the flying Sword appeaſed by the ſubmiſsive department of the ſtaffe, *Paul Fox* was in good hopes, that he ſhould hereafter be quiet: but in one Evening there was a ſtrange kind of rapping at the doore, upon which himſelfe went to it, and demanding who it was that knockt, the Spirit with a ſoft hollow voyce commanded him to open the doore, ſaying, hee muſt dwell there: To which *Fox* replyed, that he thought it to be an evill Spirit and that he had nothing to doe there, wiſhing it to returne to Hell Gates, where hee thought he might have entrance without knocking, and ſo for the preſent he heard no more of it.

But it ſeemes this tatchy Fyn grew angry: For at noon-day as *Fox* and his ſon, and two ſervants were at their worke, weaving of fine Lace and Ribbaning, their worke was cut to peeces in the Loome before their faces: yet could they not diſcerne either hand or knife, but the ſilke cut ſhort off and great ſtones, Tyles, Brick-bats, Oyſter-ſhels, peeces of bread, and other things came in at the windowes, broke all the Glaſſe, and frighted young *Fox* and the two ſervants out of the roome, but did not any hurt to either of them.

Theſe things often falling out (beſides ſome apprehenſions of

feare,

feare, *Fox* sustained great losse in his trade, his worke being often cut to peeces, and especially in the day time, hee removed his dwelling to another place, but was still followed and haunted by these Spirits, and often times when he or his servants were at worke, their worke was still cut as before but nothing appearing thereupon, hee came back againe to his former dwelling at *Plaisto*, which house was quiet all the time that he was absent, but upon his comming thither againe the like thing hapned as before, and that which was a greater wonder then any of the rest.

In the yard lay a great stone of about halfe a hundred weight and had continued there many yeers and as *Paul Fox* and divers others were in the roome, one paire of staires high, for many come daily thither to behold things of this strange nature) this stone came tumbling up stairs into the middest of the roome without any thing seene to move it, with as much facility in assention of such a ponderous thing naturally would doe in the descention, which being lookt upon with much admiration the stone lay still in the middest of the roome after it came up one paire of staires in this wonderfull manner: Then one of *Fox* his men tooke up the stone, and carried it downe staires into the yard and laid it down there in a place, where by long lying it had made a hole in the earth, and within a quarter of an houre the same stone came trooling up staires againe as before, and after fetching of a compasse or two about the roome, it lay still, and wagged not, but as if it were an inhabitant, rather then a guest, and claymed rather the chiefe place in the house, then to lye any longer in the yard: it doth usually so soone as it is carried downe came up againe into the same room.

These things being behold by at least 100 people at once, which came the last weeke, and still doe daily to receive satisfaction in these apparant wonders, which are now also become great in fame: for the strangenesse thereof, ministers discourse in the Countrey, and is spread abroad thoroughout this whole Citie.

Some of the Gentlemen that came to see it gave money to one of *Fox* his servants, which he thankfully tooke, and laid it

up

up in a handkerchiffe, which as it were catcht out, and the monie flew forth into the midſt of the roome in the view of all the people. This being a luſty young man ſeemed at the firſt to bee ſomewhat daunted, but having hetherto received any hurt and having often ſeene ſtrange things there of like nature, he catcht the hand-kirchiffe up againe, and gathered up the money, tyed it up againe, with two knots, and unbuttoned his dublet, and put it next his skin under his arme, where finding of it ſtirre he clapt his elbow downe cloſe to his ſide, and thought to have held it, but it came out and flew about the roome as before.

I ſhould be too tedious to relate every particular that hath hapned here within the ſpace of this moneth, how *Fox* his ſon and his men are ſometimes pulled by the hayre, lugged by the ears, knockt on the head, pincht in their ſleepe, pulled out of their beds, troubled with many noyſes, their worke cut in peeces before their faces, their bread throwne about the roome, their bookes about their ears, the doores ſometimes made faſt when they were let open, and another time ſet open when they were lockt.

What the event may be we know not, but it continues to this day, and there be thouſands that have beene eye-witneſſe of the truth thereof, the man hath beene much troubled at it, being much impoveriſhed for that he cannot with quiet uſe his trade, and hath received many loſſes by the cutting and ſpoyling his ſilke and other commodities.

And many Miniſters, Gentlemen & great Scholers have come purpouſly to ſee theſe things and have conſulted together to find out the reaſon or cauſe of theſe ſtrange remarkable wounders, which are continually acted there, but they cannot give any reaſon or ground for, and not finding out the cauſe, are alſo in the courſe of nature to ſeeke to the remedy, ſome thinkes it is to reveale ſomething that is paſt and others are of an opinion that it for-ſhews ſome things to come.

That which is manifeſt appertaineth to us, and our children, but hidden things belong unto God.

In *Paul Fox* his houſe was alſo a ſhelfe whereon did lye many godly Bookes, amongſt which was a *Bible*, the *Practiſe of*

Piety,

Piety and others, but of a ſuddaine as the Bookes were lying together and a little before the uſuall houre the ſaid *Fox* was wont to read a Chapter and performe other duties, the whole ſhelfe of Bookes cam fluttring about the rome: and ſome papers that were amongſt the Bookes were carried quite away and loſt, but none of the godly books were miſſing: nay, after for a time they had beene hurried about the roome, clashing our againe another, as if they have beene torne in a thouſand peeces, the *Bible* and other good bookes were ſpread open upon the board, and not one leafe diminiſhed of them, which as it appeared to the beholders to be none of the leaſt wonders, ſo may we obſerve that although the evill Spirit had power to ſhew a malice and hatred againſt ſuch pious bookes, which by the daily uſe and practiſe of *Paul Fox* was a meanes to change it from doing that miſchiefe which it deſire and might be an occaſion to ſhorten his aboad there, but againſt the very Book of God the *wholy Bible*, though it had not power to do the leaſt hurt to any of them, and was forced to be a ſervant to ſpread the booke open againſt *Fox* or ſome of his family ſhould read in it.

Almoſt infinit are the ſtrange examples of the unheard of wounders beyond nature or art, that hath and ſtill is daily to be ſeene and heard at this *Paul Fox* his houſe, but I ſhall haſten to a conſultation.

The wife of *Paul Fox* having made a pot of porrage and after her huſband, her ſelfe and their family had eaten part of them, ſhe ſet the pot with the reſidue in a corner at the end of the Kitchin and covered it cloſe, but after it had ſtood there cloſe covered for the ſpace of about half an houre being almoſt quit cold, the lid ſuddenly fel off the pot, trundling about the Room, & the porrage ſprung up right out of the pot aſcending a great hight, as if they had beene forced out of the pipe of an Engine, and daſhing againſt the walls, was diſperſed about the roome, not one drop of them being left in the pot, now for as much as in nature theſe maruelous things to thoſe that have not been eye-witneſſes therof may ſeem to exceed the bounds of credit or beliefe, yet ſeeing it is generally knowne for a truth and may be proved by thouſands of good credit and repute and is ſtill to

be

be ſeen by any that deſire ſatisfaction at *Plaiſto* in the parish of *Weſt-ham* aforeſaid, which is alittle beyond *Bow*, it will be unneceſſary for me to perſwade your belief any further herein, only let me put you in mind what ſtrange thinges have been acted by Witches, how many have beene the laſt Aſſizes condemned and executed in the Countyes of *Eſſex* and *Suffolke*, all which are already publiſhed in print, and are known to be approved at truths and therefore I ſhall not need further to inſiſt on them, and will end this diſcovrſe with one particular more which is not leſſe worthy your knowledge then carſe given to the inhabitants of theſe parts of the Kingdome to do their utmoſt in diſcovering and finding out wicked perſons which by confederacy with the Devill do not onely caſt away their ſoules and bodies, but make ſpoyle and havock of their neighbours goods,

In ſome part of the Countries whole flocks of Geeſe have been well a feeding on the greenes over night, and the morning ſome of them have been found fluttering on their back with their heeles upwards others running and reeling up and downe, making hidious noyſe, and many of them ſtarke dead. In thoſe that were dead was found a long quill (as it were) thruſt the length of ones finger into the fundament of the Geeſe, and in others that were but half dead the quil was in but about an inch and halfe but within few houres they dyed alſo.

Theſe things are thought apparently to exceed from witchcraft, but as for the others at Paul Fox his houſe which are wonders (the like never ſcarce ever heard of) there cannot any ſolid reaſon be given from where they exceed.

FINIS.